



**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

May 10, 2017

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

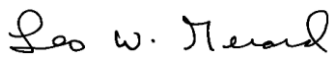
I am writing on behalf of the approximately 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW) in strong support of the nomination of Robert Lighthizer to serve as the United States Trade Representative. It is far past time for Congress to act on this nomination which is critical to this Administration's stated goal of fighting for American production and jobs.

Mr. Lighthizer is a man who comes to the job with unparalleled experience and qualifications. He has been a leader in promoting policies to advance the interests of domestic producers and workers while also embracing the need for the U.S. to continue its robust engagement in the world economy. He is a man of great integrity who has the ability to develop consensus around the policies that must guide this nation in the future and the understanding of the need to have a firm, but reasoned hand, at the negotiating table.

The time for labels is over; free trade and protectionism should become terms of the past. It is clear from the reality of today's trading relationships that a pragmatic approach is needed to confront the challenges we face and to take advantages of the opportunities that exist. Managing our relationships and aggressively enforcing the agreed upon rules is what our country needs and what our citizens deserve. At this critical juncture, both businesses and workers have lost confidence in the execution of trade policy that has been designed more to advance foreign policy goals and Wall Street's interests than balancing these competing demands. This nation needs a Trade Ambassador dedicated to ensuring that we can both engage in further liberalization while advancing our own economic interests and values. Bob has the understanding, and the ability, to balance those interests.

On behalf of the members of the USW, the largest industrial union in North America, and workers in industries across this great country, we urge you to move quickly so that Mr. Lighthizer can begin the hard work ahead.

Sincerely,

  
Leo W. Gerard  
International President